

SOUTH
OF
THE MILITARY
DEMARCATIION
LINE

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KOREA is blessed with a fertile land, fine climate and abundant mineral resources—gold, silver, and other rare metals. It has therefore been called a “country of gold” from olden times.

The Korean people have lived in this beautiful land of abundance in harmony as a homogeneous people for nearly 5,000 years.

But they were for a time (from 1910 to 1945) reduced to the status of a colonial slave by the Japanese imperialist aggressors. When they cast off the colonial yoke of nearly 40 years imposed by Japanese imperialism, they had to face another national tragedy. U.S. occupation of South Korea was the beginning of that tragedy—division of the territory and split of the nation.

In South Korea everything has come under the thumb of the Americans, and the popular masses have been condemned to slavery, their misery defying all description. And this is an inevitable outcome of U.S. colonial rule.

Below is a general survey of the U.S. policy of colonial enslavement in South Korea and its consequences.

1. U.S. AGGRESSION ON KOREA STARTED 100 YEARS AGO

Already long before the U.S. army took over from the defeated Japanese imperialists as a colonial ruler in South Korea in August 1945, the United States had made its debut as an aggressor in the eyes of the Koreans. More than 100 years ago the United States set its covetous eyes on Korea, and has ever since been systemi-

atically pursuing a policy of aggression against her.

As far back as 1845, a scheme for seizing Korea was debated at a U.S. Congress session. (M.F. Nelson, *The Old Order in Korea and East Asia*.) The U.S. had planned to make Korea a strategic base for its future aggression in the Far East.

An American politician, T. Dennett, frankly admitted in his book *Roosevelt and the Russo-Japanese War* published in New York, 1925, the fact that when the United States considered the question of setting up its naval bases in East Asia in 1865-1870, Korea was marked for a future U.S. military base.

With these aggressive ends in view, the United States dispatched its squadrons one after another to Korean waters.

The U.S.S. General Sherman incident proved a prelude to the direct U.S. aggression on Korea. On August 8, 1866, the American merchant Preston sailed up the Daidong river to the vicinity of Pyongyang on board the said ship armed with guns and small weapons. Coming ashore accompanied by armed gangs, the Americans infested the neighbouring areas, robbing people of their properties and raping women. They attacked, captured and looted Korean boats; they killed innocent local inhabitants without any provocation by the latter. They also made a geographical survey of the region.

Enraged by the aggressive acts and outrages of the crew of the General Sherman, the Korean people rose in arms and, at last, sent the American pirate ship to the bottom of the Daidong river.

Far from learning a lesson by the incident, the Americans continued their acts of aggression against

Korea. In 1867, a U.S. warship violated the territorial waters of Korea and in April 1868 another U.S. warship intruded into the lower reaches of the Daidong river. In May the same year, the armed crew of the U.S. vessel *China* stealthily excavated the mausoleum of the late Prince Nam-yun Goon* in Duksan, and in 1871 a U.S. "Korean Expedition Squadron" invaded Kanghwa Island.

In 1882 the United States sent a squadron to Korea to intimidate the Korean government into compliance and at last succeeded in wresting from it the aggressive Korea-U.S. Treaty of Amity and Trade.

This treaty enabled the United States to obtain concessions in Korea. After the signing of the treaty, many Americans rushed to Korea and secured concessions for the development of big mines such as the Gapsan and the Woonsan mine, the construction of a railway between Seoul and Inchon, the management of tramcar and water service in Seoul, etc.

As can be seen from this, the U.S. policy of aggression on Korea is not a thing of yesterday or today, but dates way back to the past.

The aim of the U.S. army's landing in South Korea in 1945 was, under a wartime agreement between the Allied Nations, to disarm the Japanese army south of the 38th parallel. But, taking advantage of this opportunity,

* The mausoleum of Prince Nam-yun Goon is the grave of the late father of Prince Dai-won Goon who was then holding the reins of government in the feudal state of the Ri dynasty. The object of the Americans in their stealthy excavation of the mausoleum was not only to steal the valuables in it, but also to carry away the remains of the late Prince Nam-yun Goon which they had planned to hold for ransom in forcing the Korean government to conclude a shackling treaty with them.

the United States sought to realize their aggressive designs harboured for the past 100 years. Upon arrival in South Korea, the U.S. army enforced military government and set up an apparatus of colonial rule, forcibly disbanding the people's committee, a people's power organ established on the initiative of the people themselves. Meanwhile, the Americans pursued the policy of turning South Korea into their military base.

To this end, they rigged up a puppet government as an instrument of their colonial enslavement policy and imposed upon it various shackling and predatory treaties and agreements. Thus, the United States seized the lever of control in all the political, economic, military and cultural spheres and became the virtual ruler in South Korea.

But it has been using every means possible to mislead the world public and camouflage their acts of aggression and plunder. The Americans describe the U.S. army's occupation of South Korea as "liberation," aggression as "aid," dependence as "independence," and the U.S. army as a "U.N. force."

The U.S. colonial rule of South Korea is characterized by its viciousness and craftiness.

2. SOUTH KOREA — A TYPICAL U.S. COLONY

Washington declares that South Korea is not a colony, but a "free nation," which owes its birth to the United States. And South Korea is presented as a "friendly ally" of America, not a subordinate or a protege.

Then, let us now proceed to see what kind of a "free nation" and an "ally" South Korea is.

ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL LIFE

The Americans are loud in advertising that the South Korean "government" is independent in the conduct of its affairs. They say that its "national assembly" is formed through elections, the president is elected and its "democratic representative government" is developing satisfactorily.

True, there are a "national assembly" and a "government" in South Korea, and their conference halls resound with lively discussions on "state affairs." In the banks and corporations the posts of directors are occupied by Koreans and not by Americans. But all this cannot be considered an indicator of South Korea's sovereignty.

As for South Korean economy, it is a sheer colonial economy subordinated to the interests of the United States, and the rulers are representatives of pro-American forces. Furthermore, its government, as generally admitted by the foreign press, is only playing the role of a "committee for distributing the U.S. aid funds." (The February 1962 issue of the Japanese magazine *Chuo Koron*.)

A government based on a colonial economy and on pro-American forces always at the beck and call of the United States cannot but be a tool of Washington. Thus, the South Korean "government" is nothing but a colonial agency in disguise whose mission it is to carry out the U.S. policy of colonial domination while screening its true nature with the sign of "Republic of Korea Government."

The real government is the U.S. Embassy in Seoul

which pulls wires behind the scenes, dictating the U.S. colonial policy and supervising its execution. The present staff of the U.S. Embassy exceeds in number that of the former Japanese imperialist Government-General of Korea. The U.S. Embassy achieves its political domination over South Korea by means of various treaties and agreements.

In August 1953 the United States concluded the "ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty" with South Korea. Article IV of the treaty says:

"The Republic of Korea grants, and the United States of America accepts, the right to dispose United States land, air and sea forces in and about the territory of the Republic of Korea as determined by mutual agreement."

And it is specified in its Article VI as follows:

"This treaty shall remain in force indefinitely."

Therefore, under this treaty the U.S. occupation army has the right to remain in South Korea indefinitely, with no restrictions as to the number of its personnel and areas of stationing. Besides, it is granted the right to build military bases at any places it sees fit and the liberty to perpetrate all sorts of arbitrary acts with extraterritorial privileges.

Needless to say, it is incompatible with the sovereign right of a state to allow a foreign army of aggression to be stationed at any place in its territory for an indefinite period of time.

In 1956 the "ROK-U.S. Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaty" was signed. Under this treaty the Americans are free to run any kinds of enterprise and employ labour without restriction. And they are at perfect liberty to form public organizations, lease land, buildings and other

real estates, inherit or liquidate properties, obtain and hold patent rights. They can have their own way to conduct trade and navigate in any part of South Korea. In short, the Americans are granted unrestricted rights while the South Korean authorities are bound to obey every wish of Washington.

Into the bargain, Washington forced the Seoul regime to sell South Korea right out to the U.S. imperialists through the signing of the "ROK-U.S. Economic and Technical Agreement."

Articles V and VI of this agreement state: American merchants and their families in South Korea are to receive equal treatment with diplomats and are exempt from taxes. And under this agreement the South Koreans are duty bound to furnish on demand all information in economic transactions with the Americans.

It is common knowledge that no country has ever recognized extraterritorial rights of the employees of a foreign firm unless it is a colony.

This agreement was rigged up by a fraudulent method—the United States sent a letter and South Korea accepted it, and this was the conclusion of an agreement. Therefore, there was no signing of names by representatives of government of the countries concerned nor instruments of the agreement done in the languages of both countries.

South Korea's "February 8th Committee for Joint Struggle against the ROK-U.S. Economic and Technical Agreement" pointed out that the fabrication of this agreement was an "anti-national act reducing South Korea to a subject nation of the United States," that it provided openly for encroachment on the sovereign right, that it

was an "act of permitting overt smuggling and granting extraterritorial rights" and, lastly, that it was an "act betraying their selfish designs for colonial domination." (Report from Seoul of the South Korean news agency *Dongyang Tongshin* on February 20, 1961.)

Since the concoction of a "government" in South Korea on May 10, 1948, the United States has imposed upon it more than 60 shackling treaties and agreements. This means that an average of four treaties and agreements have been cooked up every year. These agreements have legalized the right of the American ambassador to exercise control over the activities of the South Korean "government," and brought into existence a relationship of domination and submission between them.

Also, the American ambassador exercises political control through the U.S. advisers planted in each department and bureau of the puppet regime. These advisers control the making of important policies and supervise and direct their execution by means of giving counsel.

The Americans hold the control lever in personnel and educational affairs, too. The transfer and allocation of the personnel of major government bodies are subject to the consent of the American ambassador and advisers. The education of "public servants" is conducted in accordance with the programmes worked out by the adviser to the "Academy of Administration" of South Korea.

The farce of "transfer to civil administration" staged by Pak Jung Hi's military junta after their military coup was based on the play written by the U.S. ambassador, who pulled wires behind the scenes.

Commenting on the farce, the South Korean daily *Kyunghyang Shinmoon* of February 16, 1963 pointed out:

“The present government adapts its policies to the actions of the American ambassador. Whenever there came a political crisis, the people had to watch the movements of the U.S. Embassy. As for the reason, it is too clear to explain... And this was proved by the movements of Ambassador McConaughy before and after the April 19 event, and by the movements of Ambassador Berger around the May 16 event.”

We can cite innumerable facts in illustration all of which are well known to the whole world: the staging of the May 16 military coup under the manipulation of Washington (the May 1962 issue of the Japanese magazine *Sekai*); the drafting of the “Constitution and Election Law of the Third Republic” by advisers and such American scholars as Emerson, professor of Harvard University, and Flanz, professor of New York University (reports of *DPA* from Tokyo on October 13, 1962 and of the South Korean news agency *Dongyang Tongshin* from Seoul on November 5, 1962); intensification of “retrenchment” and raise of the currency exchange rate in favour of the American dollar under pressure from the American economic organizations (the South Korean daily *Chosun Ilbo* of May 5, 1964); pressure brought to bear upon the South Korean authorities by the American ambassador to wind up the “ROK-Japan talks” at an early date (a dispatch of the South Korean news agency *Dongyang Tongshin* from Seoul on July 10, 1964); proclamation of a martial law on instructions from U.S. Ambassador Berger and Commander of the “U.N. forces” in South Korea

Howze (*UPI* report of June 4, 1964 from Seoul), and so on and so forth.

As is clear from this, the factual ruler of South Korea is the American ambassador, not the "ROK government."

That is why the head of UPI's Far Eastern Bureau pointed out that South Korea's politics is under direct control of the State Department and conducted by a big agency on the spot headed by Muccio, a veteran expert on Far Eastern affairs.

Such in brief is the situation.

Since South Korea is a U.S. colony and its government is a puppet devoid of any real power, her people have no one to turn to, when they are robbed and murdered by U.S. army men at random.

DIAGNOSIS OF SOUTH KOREAN ECONOMY

A nation must have an independent economy if it is to enjoy complete sovereignty. From olden times no nation without an independent economy could claim political independence or was free from subjugation and exploitation by foreign powers. A stable, independent national economy is, to all intents and purposes, the basis of a durable political independence and sovereignty.

Nevertheless, after liberation from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, the economy of South Korea could not develop along independent lines.

The South Korean daily *Pusan Ilbo* wrote on May 14, 1963:

"A serious case suffering from the disease of poverty complicated by a malady of dependence on foreign forces.

Such is the diagnosis of the South Korean economy. The United States promised that it would guarantee independence for South Korea and help it get on its feet economically, but in reality it has driven its economy into total bankruptcy. Since the early days of their military government, the Americans have pursued a policy of making the economy an appendage to their own. To begin with, they set up such control agencies as the ROK branch of the U.S. Operation Mission and the ROK-U.S. Commission for Economic Co-operation under a number of agreements and treaties they had lured South Korea into signing by using aid as a bait."

The ROK branch of the "U.S. Operation Mission" has a staff far greater than the combined staffs of the economic departments of the South Korean "government." It has branch offices in major cities and port towns. The Mission has many of its American officials planted as advisers in key economic departments of the government, major banks and state enterprises. Nominally, these advisers are counsellors, but in actuality they have powers to give instructions and orders on the strength of the "aid." They meddle in and supervise even the management of individual enterprises, to say nothing of the work of the departments of the puppet government. In this way, they keep the South Korean economy tightly under U.S. control.

The unlimited powers and control of the USOM are legalized by a number of agreements and draconic laws. According to the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Economic and Technical Assistance" signed on February 8, 1961, the South Korean "government" has to grant unlimited authority to the USOM to inspect and review all the time

its economic plans and documents, and is in duty bound to submit to it necessary information on economic affairs. (Article III of the Agreement.)

The United States, by virtue of a number of treaties including the "Convention on the Joint Economic Commission for Plans of Economic Reconstruction and Financial Stability," has so arranged things that the South Koreans cannot execute any of their policies on their own authority including the purchase and distribution of goods, collection of taxes and conduct of all economic affairs, without the consent of the USOM and American advisers.

All major economic policies are today worked out by Americans under the direction of the USOM. The "Five-Year Plan for Postwar Rehabilitation" covering the period from 1953 to 1957 was prepared by the American "Nathan Society," and the "tax reform plan" of 1960 was drafted by Hobbs, adviser on the Korean question. The "Five-Year Plan" of Pak Jung Hi's military junta was worked out with the participation of Busche, vice-director of the USOM, and the so-called "financial stability plan" was prepared under the direction of Ives, head of the Korean section of the "International Co-operation Administration."

Thus, it is not the economic agencies of the South Korean "government" but the USOM that controls, manages and directs the South Korean economy as a whole.

The Japanese magazine *Chuo Koron* was right when it pointed out in its February 1962 issue that the USOM in South Korea was a government operating behind the ROK government.

The United States also has complete control of the

South Korean economy through the supply and distribution of "aid funds" and "aid goods." In the budgetary revenue the counterpart funds figure conspicuously, accounting for 40 to 50 per cent of the total revenue—52.6 per cent in 1961 and 43 per cent in 1962. (The April 1962 and March 1963 issues of the South Korean magazine *The Monthly Statistical Review* of the Bank of Korea.)

Without the counterpart funds the Seoul regime cannot compile its budget, and without the consent of the United States it cannot divert money even temporarily to other purposes than provided in the budget of expenditures.

A former American representative of the "Joint ROK-U.S. Economic Commission" openly declared that nearly half of the budgetary revenues of South Korea comes from the American-controlled counterpart funds, and so it was reasonable that the Americans should interfere in the domestic affairs of South Korea. (The South Korean daily *Hanguk Ilbo* of July 2, 1960.)

The United States controls, through "aid," 30 per cent of South Korea's financial capital, 70 to 80 per cent of important raw materials, 60 per cent of import, and 25 per cent of food.

Without the 29 million dollars' worth of raw cotton imported every year, South Korea's textile mills would be compelled to close down, and without the yearly import of 6 million dollars' worth of raw sugar its sugar refineries would find themselves completely out of operation. And the flour mills also will have to stand idle if 20 million dollars' worth of wheat is not brought in. (The South Korean daily *Hanguk Ilbo* of August 10, 1962.) The same is true of oil. Without importing 30

million dollars' worth of oil annually, not a single car would be able to run. (The South Korean magazine *Sinsegye*, December 1963.)

It is therefore inevitable for the South Korean industry to adapt its production to the variety of raw and other materials to be imported, the quantity and time of their supply.

The United States has a monopoly control of the supply of fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, surplus farm produce, which places it in a position to keep its grip on agriculture. The foreign trade plan is determined by the size of U.S. "aid" and the variety of the "aid" goods. The market, as pointed out by the South Korean magazine *Jejung*, has now turned into an American goods fair.

American "aid," it will thus be seen, has a double purpose—to make South Korea dependent on the United States politically, economically and militarily and to enable the U.S. to indulge in unrestricted colonial plunder.

The South Korean press therefore rightly calls the American "aid" "invisible colonialism" or "snare for enslavement." (The South Korean daily *Hanguk Ilbo* of August 10, 1961.)

REVIEW OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Americans say that Korea's 38th parallel is a "defense line" of the United States and that South Korea, removed 18,000 miles from their shores, is an advance base for safeguarding the security of the United States. They also declare that the purpose of the station-

ing in South Korea of over 65,000 U.S. troops is to safeguard America's peace and security.

But the real object of the occupation of South Korea must be sought elsewhere. An American journalist, Mark Gaine, commenting on the landing of U.S. army forces in South Korea, wrote in his *Diary in Japan* that they were not a liberation army. They rushed there in order to watch whether the Koreans obey the conditions of surrender. From the first days of their landing, they have acted as the enemy of the Koreans.

A former commander of 10th U.S. Army Corps publicly declared that no place is better than Korea as a battlefield in the fight against the Chinese forces and that Korea is a first-class strategic area. (*The U.S. News and World Report* of December 10, 1954.)

A member of the former "U.N. Commission for Reconstruction of Korea" said that the U.S. army represented the real political power in South Korea.

These facts demonstrate the real motives of the U.S. occupation of South Korea and the American military policy. It is clear for all to see that U.S. occupation of South Korea today is in no way for the sake of the security and peace of South Korea itself. Their basic aim is to seize the whole territory of Korea and subordinate it militarily to the United States, to use it as a springboard from which to launch another war of aggression against the socialist countries.

In this connection, the Japanese magazine *Keizai Hyoron* pointed out in its May 1963 issue as follows:

"To maintain and strengthen a military force in South Korea essential for it to fulfil the functions of a

base of the anti-communist front—this is the sole object of the United States.”

With the presence of such an aggression army, South Korea cannot be free politically and militarily. Yet, the Americans claim that the “ROK army” is an “independent army” and a “national army” serving the purpose of national defence.

If so, let us have a closer look.

At dead of night on June 3, 1964, fleets of dust-covered military cars loaded with troops entered the city of Seoul... The U.S.-supplied trucks and jeeps had their humpers covered with cloth so that they might not be identified. The newly arrived troops were the 6th and 29th combat divisions. (*AP* and *AFP* dispatches of June 4, 1964.)

What brought them into Seoul? And what kind of duties were they going to carry out, and under whose command? Here is the answer.

The youth and students of South Korea had risen in protest against the “ROK-Japan talks” and the traitorous acts of the Pak Jung Hi regime, and their struggle had continued for more than two months. Entering the month of June, their struggle reached the climax. On June 3, about 20,000 students of over 10 universities and colleges in Seoul, joined by citizens, held demonstrations in the streets of the capital city, demanding the resignation of Pak Jung Hi. The demonstrators pressed forward towards the Chungwa-dai (Pak’s mansion), breaking through the manifold lines of barricades and police cordons.

Upset by the turn of affairs, American Ambassador Berger and Commander of the “U.N. forces” General

Howze flew into the encircled Chungwa-dai by helicopter at 4:40 p.m. and had secret talks with Pak Jung Hi. (The South Korean daily *Kookje Shinbo* of June 3, 1964.) Several hours later, at 8:00 p.m., Pak Jung Hi proclaimed an extraordinary martial law in Seoul. (The South Korean news agency *Dongyang Tongshin*, June 3, 1964.)

This was how the said two divisions of the "ROK army," 40,000 strong, were mobilized; they were called in from areas adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line to put down the struggle of the youth, students and citizens of Seoul. Armed with U.S.-supplied weapons, the puppet troops went into action to repress ruthlessly their own fellow countrymen.

The "ROK army," as you see, far from fighting the foreign army of aggression occupying their territory, is employed to murder their own brothers and sisters under command of American officers. This is the *raison d'être* of the "national army" of the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique.

Thus, the "ROK army" is a mere tool and an appendage of the U.S. army. It is not for nothing that the British magazine *The Eastern World* pointed out in its April 1963 issue that the one and only ruler of South Korea was the 8th U.S. Army.

The operational command of the "ROK army" is in the hands of the U.S. Army Command, and the legal basis for this is furnished in the "Taejon Agreement" signed in July 1950 and in the Minutes of the ROK-U.S. Talks held on November 20, 1950, as well as a number of other agreements and treaties.

It is expressly stated in Chapter II of the Minutes of the ROK-U.S. Talks that "while the U.N. Command assumes responsibility for the defense of the Republic

of Korea, the ROK army is placed under the operational command of the U.N. Command." (The South Korean year-book *Hanguk Nyun-gam*, 1955.)

Under the "Agreement on Transfer of Military Command" signed in July 1950, the "U.S. Military Advisory Group" sent advisers to army corps, divisions, regiments, battalions, and to the military training centres, to say nothing of the "Defense Ministry," to control, supervise and direct the "ROK army."

The United States has another lever of control, the so-called military and economic aid, to keep the "ROK army" in fetters, to deprive it of all liberty to take actions without orders and consent of the American officers.

In fact, the Seoul regime cannot make a military budget by itself without U.S.-supplied money, and its army cannot conduct military operations without U.S. war supplies.

The Western press was fully justified when it ridiculed such a state of affairs. The *Washington Post* of May 26, 1961 said that the ROK army was a product of American training and supply. On May 30, 1961, the *Economist* mockingly pointed out that the ROK army was an army of the kind which could not take operational actions independently without the consent and directions of the United States in regard to supreme command, arms, ammunition and equipment.

The "ROK army," as pointed out by the U.S. army magazine *Military Review*, is but a continuation and a supplement of the U.S. armed forces, cheap cannon fodder at the disposal of the American aggressors.

CULTURAL COLONY

For South Korea fully subordinate to the United States politically, economically and militarily, it is out of the question to enjoy independence in the sphere of culture.

A foreign correspondent, telling his impressions after seeing the central parts of Seoul, remarked he could hardly tell where he really was, in the United States or in South Korea. He was not exaggerating, in view of the fact that in South Korea the decadent American music predominates in the radio programme and reigns supreme at cafes and tea houses and the billboards on the streets are full of advertisements of the American films of erotism and gangsterism.

Today relics of the fine Korean culture and the good customs and manners of the nation have been abandoned, neglected and disregarded. Beautiful Korean folk songs and classical Korean operas are being replaced by the decadent music and shows. Literary and art works, for the most part, deal with abnormal mentality, social evil, immorality and moral depravity, generating moral decadence and degradation.

Flesh traffic is openly practised. Tens of thousands of women are forced to serve the American soldiers as entertainers. Suicide, robbery, theft, rape, swindling, embezzlement and bribery are everyday occurrences. Moral decadence has reached the lowest point. (South Korean paper *Junnam Ilbo*, April 7, 1962.) Another South Korean paper calls South Korea "a ghastly land where justice and laws are trampled underfoot and injustice and lawlessness prevail."

Why is South Korea in such a state and who is to blame for it?

Ideological and cultural penetration is one of the essential means neo-colonialism resorts to in subordinating other nations.

The United States has since the early days of Korea's liberation worked to exercise control over South Korea's culture and enlist it in implementing its aggressive policy. The United States has set up a huge machinery to subordinate South Korea to her ideologically and culturally. It has in Seoul the "U.S.I.S." and the "Education Department of the U.S. Operation Mission" staffed with many American experts.

The United States has thrust on South Korea a number of agreements for subordinating South Korea to her culturally. The "South Korea-U.S. Agreement on Educational Exchange," for instance, provides for exchanging visits of professors for giving lectures and acquainting the South Korean professors with the ideas and way of life of the Americans so that they can propagate these in South Korea. (South Korean year-book *Hapdong*, 1960 edition.)

The film is one of the media the United States employs in propagating its culture. The United States demands the South Korean authorities to see that American films make up about 80 per cent of South Korea's film import. (South Korean year-book *Hapdong*, 1960 edition.) Consequently, the American films, imported at a rate of one in every three days, have monopolized the cinemas in South Korea.

The United States operates radio and T.V. broadcasting stations and publishes and distributes periodicals

and materials for exhibition in South Korea as part of the programme for disseminating the American way of life. Meanwhile, South Korea is forced to import from the United States annually 500,000 copies of books for use at colleges.

The United States also holds control over the newspapers, radio broadcasting stations, educational establishments and religious organizations to use them as means of spreading the idea of anti-communism, inspiring American worship and exhibiting the American way of life.

America's cultural penetration has produced a devastating effect. The attributes of the American way of life—moral depravity, immorality, nihilism, despair and misanthropy—are widespread and crimes are being committed one after the other. The lofty national spirit of independence and self-reliance and the consciousness of national identity are being thrown overboard and in their place the servile flunkeyism and national nihilism are coming to the fore.

This has led the South Korean paper *Dong-a Ilbo* (April 23, 1962) to dub South Korea “a land that has been turned into a U.S. colony culturally.”

3. WHO GAINS AND WHO LOSES?

Facts mentioned in the foregoing chapters confirm that South Korea is a typical U.S. colony.

Nonetheless, the Americans allege that the United States spends a colossal sum of money to aid South Korea and that South Koreans apparently owe their existence to the U.S. handouts.

But the South Korean press tells quite a different story.

“How do matters stand with us today when we have received tremendous aid (U.S. aid) totalling over 3,000 million dollars which we did not expect at all at that time (at the time of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule)? The whole nation has been reduced to beggary.” (South Korean journal *Hanguk Kyungje*, February issue of 1963.)

Here a question arises as to who has really gained and who has lost.

The United States annually ships large quantities of commodities to South Korea for sale in accordance with its “aid” programme.

According to the South Korean paper *Sanupkyungje Shinmoon* of November 20, 1960, U.S. consumer goods dumped in South Korea are on the average 20-30 per cent dearer than in the world market and for the U.S.-made engineering equipment South Korea pays twice the world market price and in some cases three or four times as much. The Americans in turn ship away from South Korea tungsten, gold, manganese, and other minerals and raw materials at prices below the production cost. The United States pays only 68 per cent of the production cost for the gold. South Korea is forced to sell to the United States her squamose graphite at 100 dollars a ton, although in the world market squamose graphite sells more than 350 dollars a ton. The same is true of talc — half the world market price. (South Korean journal *The Monthly Statistical Review* of the Bank of Korea, No. 2, 1957.)

Trade on such unfavourable terms caused to South

Korea a loss of some 940 million dollars in import and some 100 million dollars in export in the years from 1945 to 1960.

The United States, taking advantage of her monopoly position in oil supply, suspends its supply when she wants to net more profits, thus causing the stoppage of motor and maritime transport and the operation of factories. The Americans have refashioned the power plants fitting them up with the equipment using petroleum and have replaced the locomotives using coal with their outdated diesel locomotives, in order to sell their outmoded locomotives and more of their petroleum.

In pre-liberation years South Korea applied the chemical fertilizer from North Korea and produced rice enough to export 10 million *suk* annually. But nowadays it cannot do without some 50 million dollars' worth of fertilizers and some 100 million dollars' worth of surplus farm produce annually imported from the United States.

The South Korean paper *Chosun Ilbo* (April 7, 1963) wrote that "thanks to the U.S. aid South Korea, far from exporting its goods, suffered a loss of 150 million dollars."

Or other facts and figures: South Korea maintains an army over 600,000 strong, the biggest in the world in proportion to the population.

Over the past five years, *Readers' Digest* (No.2, 1954) wrote, the United States has given on an annual average over 273 million dollars of military aid to South Korea to maintain the South Korean army. The sum is equivalent to the yearly expenses for maintaining some 20,000 of the American soldiers stationed abroad.

By giving such military aid of a tricky nature, the U.S. actually burdens the South Korean people with the bulk of the expenses for maintaining its puppet army of over 600,000 effectives. Thus it saves a huge sum of military expenses and get enormous profits.

The bellicose American general Van Fleet was quoted by *Readers' Digest* (No. 2, 1954) as having stated that 25 South Korean army divisions can be kept with the expenses required for maintaining one U.S. army division. This goes to show that United States has saved annually more than 7,000 million dollars of military expenses by giving South Korea "military aid" amounting to some 300 million dollars annually on the average.

In this connection U.S. Defence Secretary McNamara made a revealing statement at the U.S. Congress on June 13, 1963: The recent study by the Defence Department has proved that assistance to the armed forces of the allied powers (colonial dependent nations like South Korea) profits the United States more than the expansion of our own armed forces does. This underscores that an account would have to be taken of the considerable expansion of our own armed forces, if there was no army receiving our aid in accordance with the military aid programme. From this point of view, the military aid programme, being an important means not only for U.S. foreign policy and military strategy but also for securing manpower and financial resources, is in accord with our national interests. (Washington, *UPI*, June 13, 1963.)

In giving "economic aid" the United States follows the principle of making the recipient country spend five dollars for military purposes for every dollar it receives. In accordance with this principle, the Americans make

their puppets appropriate more than 70 per cent of the budgetary expenditures for military purposes.

It follows from this that over the past decade the South Korean people have borne the expenses of at least 9,400 million dollars for maintaining the "ROK army" that serves the Americans.

4. FIRST OUTCOME

The U.S. colonial policy of enslavement and plundering has produced a devastating effect on all spheres of the South Korean economy.

As was already mentioned, the United States has pursued above all the policy of converting South Korea into its military strategic base.

The so-called aid has served the United States as an important means for realizing this aggressive aim. American surplus goods introduced in quantities as "aid" goods exercise a dominating influence on the South Korean market. The United States pushes the South Korean authorities to earmark 70 per cent of the expenditures and one-third of the annual output for military purposes in return for the transfer to South Korea's national revenue of the money from the sale of the aid goods. (Washington, *INS*, May 3, 1956.)

This causes a serious difficulty for the operation of South Korean national industry and strangles its development.

"It is not difficult to see that big appropriation for the nation's welfare can hardly be expected when the greater part of the expenditure goes into military spending,"

wrote a South Korean paper. The more consumer goods from abroad for securing money for defence purposes, experience has proved, the less becomes the possibility for extended reproduction in industry. The result is the increasing curtailment of production, far from a rise in output. (South Korean journal *Sinsegye*, December issue of 1963.)

Another South Korean journal, *Jayu Segye*, No. 5 of 1958 wrote: "Introduction of the American dollars only accelerates the ruin of the Republic of Korea."

The following quotations from the South Korean papers throw light on the financial and marketing difficulties and the acute raw material shortage the South Korean national industry is now experiencing.

"A small businessman bargaining away his goods out of a thirst for money complains, 'I'm up to the ears in trouble. 200,000 won for each of us would relieve us somewhat'. Some people say raw materials are as expensive as gold, whereas manufactured goods are dog-cheap, revealing a picture of the present dullness of the business world." (South Korean paper *Kookje Shinbo*, May 18, 1963.)

Unable to get loans from the government which spends a huge sum for military purposes, the majority of the businessmen have no recourse but to turn to the usurers. The interest, South Korean paper *Dong-a Ilbo* of August 24, 1963 wrote, usually ranges from 7 to 10 per cent a month and at times it is as high as 1 per cent a day, 30 per cent a month.

The national industry is "bleeding itself white" every year, fails to maintain its level of production, far from expanding production, curtails or suspends operation and

eventually goes totally bankrupt.

In two and a half years following the military coup of May 1961, altogether over 6,500 enterprises went bankrupt. In December 1963, operation rate of the enterprises was no more than 25 per cent. (South Korean paper *Kyunghyang Shinmoon* of December 17, 1963.)

An editorial writer for the Japanese paper *Yomiuri Shinbun*, after his visit to South Korea in the spring of 1962, remarked that "the South Korean industry is so poor that in actuality it is about the same as none at all." A South Korean paper, *Sanupkyungje Shinmoon* (March 5, 1962), wrote that "South Korea's industrial districts are in deep slumber... and factory equipment is gathering rust."

The sad picture of national industry is reflected in production. The present level of industrial production is 85 per cent of that in the years of the Japanese colonial rule. Production of the manufacturing industry in the postwar years dwindled to 56.2 per cent compared with 1940.

South Korea depended on foreign countries for 72.8 per cent of the needed manufactured goods in 1953 (South Korean journal *Jaijung*, No. 7, 1956) and the figure jumped to 86 per cent and more after 1958.

Industry accounts for only one-third of the national income. Food and textile industries and those industries which pave the way for more influx of U.S. surplus farm produce and which manufacture war supplies make up three-quarters of the meagre industrial output. Machine-building, metallurgical, chemical and building-materials industries, which are essential for economic independence, are almost non-existent.

Agriculture in which nearly 70 per cent of the population are engaged, has also gone to ruin.

The acreage of ploughland has decreased by 200,000 hectares and that of sown area by 400,000 hectares compared with the pre-liberation days. One hundred thousand hectares of ploughland has been expropriated by the U.S. army for military use. The application for years of the same kind of U.S. fertilizer has resulted in acidifying more than 70 per cent of farmland. (South Korean paper *Chosun Ilbo*, December 10, 1963.) More than 45 per cent of the paddies have not been irrigated. (South Korean news agency *Hapdong*, February 8, 1964.) Because the irrigation works and river dykes have long been out of repair, floods inundate large sections of farmland every year. It was reported that some three million hectares of forests have been denuded, with the result that a little rain often causes much flood damage.

Thus, agricultural production has decreased to two-thirds of the pre-liberation figure, with wheat and minor cereals having dwindled to 75 per cent and 41 per cent respectively. Grain output in 1962 was 43 per cent less than in 1937. (South Korean journal *Hanguk Kyungje*, No. 3, 1963, South Korean news agency *Donghwa*, November 11, 1962.)

South Korea, which once accounted for more than two-thirds of the grain production on the Korean peninsula and annually exported 10 million *suk* of rice (one *suk* equals 150 kg.), has now become a land annually importing six million *suk* of minor cereals from abroad. (South Korean journal *Sinsegye*, No. 2, 1963.)

South Korea was once almost self-sufficient in cotton,

with its annual output reaching some 100,000 tons. But at present a large amount of U.S. raw cotton is also invading the South Korean market. Thus, cotton output has been reduced to some one-fifth of the pre-liberation figure. On the contrary, import of cotton has increased more than 22 times.

Here is what the South Korean daily *Hanguk Ilbo* has to say in its October 2, 1962 issue:

"It is true that more than 90 per cent of the raw materials for our textile industry is from the United States. This, as everyone knows, has caused the nearly complete decline of cotton cultivation at home. The U.S. raw materials make their way into our land, not at our invitation but are imposed on us through the Americans' aid programme. And nowadays we find it not easy to get rid of the dependence into which the Americans have driven us."

The picture is no better in finance and foreign trade.

Military spending has exhausted the National Treasury, plunging the nation in debt running to one hundred billion won. (*Radio Seoul*, August 21, 1964.)

Decline of production has inevitably led to the shrinkage of export and increase of import. Balance of foreign trade shows a 20-fold excess of import.

Shrinkage of production and economic decline are not of a transitory, chance nature, but of a permanent, systematic character. They are of an all-embracing nature, involving industry, agriculture and all other fields of economy.

This is where the South Korean economy has got to, thanks to the nearly 20 years of U.S. "aid."

5. SECOND OUTCOME

There can be no development of an independent national economy where economy is fully controlled by the foreigners, and one can hardly expect an improvement in the people's living when economy remains backward. The present reality of South Korea furnishes eloquent proof of this.

Here is a story which appeared in the South Korean paper *Kyunghyang Shinmoon*. (February 19, 1964.)

A boy named Kim Yoon Tai, pupil of Sukjuk primary school, Chilgok County of North Kyungsang Province, sent his teacher a letter one day in February 1964 explaining why he had been staying away from school.

It reads:

"This is to excuse myself for staying away from school, teacher. I have been missing school, to tell you the truth, because I have nothing to eat. My mother is out looking for some odd jobs. My father is the sole breadwinner of our family. He does manual labour at an American army unit. But he is in bad health and often can't go to work. We have been without rice for nine days now. One day our family of seven ate three bean curds bought on credit and another day we had three buckwheat jellies also bought on credit. The bean curd and buckwheat jelly sellers come to us for money. I am hungry and often cry together with my younger brothers. I saw my father and mother weeping, too. We didn't have a bite this morning. My younger brothers cry for

food. I am very sad to see them. I beg you, my teacher, to excuse me for staying away from school."

Such tragedy, of course, is not an isolated case.

Nearly 70 per cent of the South Korean population is engaged in agriculture. Peasant households total a little more than 2,400,000. Every year 1,400,000 of them run out of food and go through an acute famine. Over the past eight years, the number of the peasant households running out of food has kept increasing and the famine season comes earlier year after year. The number of foodless peasant households was 650,000 in April 1956, but it increased to 980,000 in March 1957, to 1,000,000 in January 1961, to 1,300,000 in 1962 and 1,400,000 in 1963 and 1964. The impoverished conditions of the rural areas have naturally led to an acute food situation in the urban districts.

Unemployment rate, wage, national income, tax, price and housing condition are indicators of the living conditions of people.

Stagnation in industry has produced mass unemployment: at present the unemployed and semi-unemployed number seven million. Sixty per cent of the able-bodied population are unemployed and semi-unemployed. (South Korean paper *Pusan Ilbo*, April 9, 1964, South Korean paper *Hangook Ilbo*, February 23, 1963.)

South Korea comes first in the world in the unemployment rate. The majority of the population is in suspense all the time, "worrying about finding employment when they have finished school, when they are discharged from the army and when they have children." (South Korean paper *Chosun Ilbo*, January 10, 1962.)

The workers are paid no more than a quarter of the

minimum living cost. (South Korean paper *Chosun Ilbo* of June 13, 1963.)

Worse still, the workers are not regularly paid. According to the South Korean paper *Hanguk Ilbo* of March 21, 1962, workers' wages remain in arrears for three or four months on the average and in the worst case for a year.

The level of wages has remained the same for a long time despite the sharp rise in the price and tax, which multiplies the deficit in the family budget of the workers.

It was reported that the wholesale price index increased by 118 per cent between 1955 and 1962. Tax levy on the people averaged about 8,000 won in 1963, which, in terms of the rice-procurement price of the government that year, was amounted to the price of three *suk* of rice, or 43 per cent of the annual average rice harvest by the peasant household, or twice the necessary amount of rice for a person a year. The sum was equivalent to nearly four months' wages of a worker with a monthly earning of some 2,000 won.

South Korea is in the lowest category in the world in the national income per head of the population, while as for the tax levy on the population it tops the list of the countries of the world.

At present 1,037,000 of the South Korean families do not have houses. In urban districts, South Korean paper *Kyunghyang Shinmoon* of August 26, 1963 wrote, the majority of the people are leading an unstable life without houses.

Ninety per cent of the total peasant households are saddled with debts running to 26,200 million won. (South

Korean paper *Junnam Ilbo* of June 13, 1964.)

The Japanese journal *Toyo Keizai* described the situation of the South Korean countryside thus: "Every year tens of thousands of peasant households go bankrupt and leave their farm villages. They are destined to become vagrants as the industry in towns cannot absorb them." The South Korean daily *Dong-a Ilbo* (July 6, 1962) wrote about the helpless situation of the people: "They are helpless, no matter how desperately they may struggle to make a living.. An endless series of tribulations and hardships lie ahead... They find no means of getting over them and finally choose group suicide."

At present in Seoul, South Korean newspaper *Daihan Ilbo* (April 30, 1964) wrote, persons taking their own lives average four a day and 131 a month, and 80 per cent of the suicide cases are from difficulty of living.

South Korea ranks first in the world in the degree of economic ruin, inflation, unemployment rate, tax levy and difficulty of living, and in suicide rate, too, it is second to none in the world, *AFP* reported on October 9, 1962.

It is "miraculous that the South Korean people get along in such straits." No wonder South Korean paper *Kyunghyang Shinmoon* of December 26, 1961 wrote: "You can say they are alive only because they are still breathing."

Never before in the five thousand years of Korean history has there been any instance of such a distressful condition of people as that in South Korea today.

South Korea under U.S. army occupation is literally a hell for the people.

* * *

From the above-mentioned facts it is reasonable to conclude that South Korea is fully dependent on the United States politically, economically, militarily and culturally. To all intents and purposes it is an American colony.

The economic bankruptcy and the unheard-of privations of the South Korean people are the natural sequence of the political, economic and military subordination to the United States. And South Korea's political, economic and military subordination to the United States is the natural consequence of the latter's heinous colonial policy.

The only way out for the South Korean people is to drive the U.S. army out of South Korea and abolish the U.S. colonial rule at an early date.

The South Korean people can explore the way to survival only by rejecting all the outside forces, winning complete independence and sovereignty in all spheres of politics, economy, military affairs and culture, striving to achieve the country's unification by the Korean people themselves.

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